

Group I, Claims 1-124, drawn to an endoscope, classified in class 600,
subclass 107;

Group II, Claim 125, drawn to endoscope, classified in class 600, subclass 104;

Group III, Claims 126-130, drawn to an endoscope, classified in class 600,
subclass 154;

Group IV, Claim 131, drawn to an endoscope auxiliary instrument attachment
member, classified in class 600, subclass 102; and

Group V, Claims 132-135, drawn to methods for endoscopically performing
diagnosis, classified in class 600, subclass 106.

It is the Examiner's position that the inventions listed as Groups I, II, III, IV
and V are distinct from each other.

In response to the Examiner's requirement for restriction, Applicants elect to
prosecute the subject matter of Group I, Claims 1-124. However, Applicants reserve the right
under 35 U.S.C. § 121 to file one or more divisional applications directed to the non-elected
subject matter in this application.

In view of the foregoing, an examination on the merits of the elected claims, at
an early date, is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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